

REMARKS

This paper responds to the restriction and species election requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed on May 29, 2008.

A. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner restricted the pending claims into five Groups, as detailed at page 3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group II, claims 21—37, drawn to a method of assessing the intra-amniotic environment via the measurement of one or more oxidized or carbonylated peptides in a vaginal sample (A 2nd method utilizing a special technical feature). Applicants reserve the right to request rejoinder of the non-elected claims.

B. Species Election Requirement

In addition, the Examiner required an election of species as detailed below.

1. Species Election E.

The Examiner requires Applicants to elect a single detection method for consideration (Office Action at page 6). In response, Applicants elect a. Claim 23 -ELISA. Claims 21-23, and 28-34 and 37 read on the selected species.

2. Species Election F.

The Examiner further requires Applicants to elect a single recommendation of treatment for consideration (Office Action at page 6). In response, Applicants elect b. Claim 32-tocolytic treatment. Claims 21-37 read on the selected species.

C. Conclusion

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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